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THE BRITISH PING PONG

Work of the Royal Army Temperance Association.

INSTEAD OF CANTEN

RADGES AND MEDALS FOR CONTINUED SOBRIETY.

Five Members Who Have Abstained From Drink for Twenty Years—Expenses and Revenue.

By WM. E. CURTIS.
Written for The Evening Star and the Chicago Record-Herald.

The temperance agitators have taken away the canteen from the army, although every officer except General Miles believes that it is essential to the welfare of the troops. Various substitutes have been proposed, but nothing has been done. It might be well for the temperance agitators to study the work of the Royal Army Temperance Association of India, of which Lord Kitchener is president and Earl Roberts, Lord Wolseley, Lord Curzon and other eminent men are patrons. The British army has the canteen everywhere—in Europe, Asia and Africa—and everywhere it is commended by every person of experience as promoting morals and discipline as well as temperance. The only objectors are the prohibitionists, who say that, as in this country, believe that sin, crime and vice can be prevented by statute.

A British Invention.

The most practical criticism they have offered against the army "institute," as the canteen is called by the British, has been that temperance men and even abstainers under that system are brought continually into the presence of temptation, and are compelled to associate with drinking men and to take their recreation and rest in clubs where liquor is sold. There is a great deal of truth in that criticism, and the military authorities have recognized it by assigning quarters, providing furniture and other practical forms of aid to the Royal Army Temperance Association, which was organized on the total abstinence principle as far back as 1862, and has continued its work until today. In 1888 all of the several temperance associations in the British army in India were consolidated with it, and there is now a very large organization sustained by the higher military officers, the civil government, the clergy and other people who feel an interest in the welfare of the soldiers.

In the list of patrons are five bishops, one field marshal, one general, five lieutenant generals, fifteen major generals, ten brigadier generals, six governors and the vicar royal. The organization now has a branch at every British barracks in India, where a room is set apart for the use of total abstainers, with a library, newspapers, magazines and all forms of amusement, and a bar for the sale of soft drinks and light refreshments. This is done on the same principle that temperance men should have the same facilities for refreshment and amusement as the nonabstainers, and it is the universal testimony that the association has not only promoted sobriety in the ranks, but has been very effective in securing employment for discharged soldiers who have been among its members.

Badges and Medals.

In order to join the association soldiers are required to take the following pledge: "I promise, with God's help, to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, except when administered medicinally, or in a religious ordinance, so long as I retain this pledge." All members are on probation for one month, and if an applicant shall have kept his pledge for thirty days he is admitted as a full member and pays monthly dues amounting to about 10 cents in our money. To encourage members to keep the pledge, honors are conferred in the form of badges and medals. For six months; twelve months; for two, three and up to ten years; then for fifteen and twenty years. The fifteen and twenty year medals were ornamental and expensive, and a good many men are wearing them. The following table shows the number of medals bestowed upon members of the society last year, which indicates the success of the movement. It is quite remarkable that 418 men have kept the pledge in any army who have resisted temptation for twenty years, or fifteen who have resisted temptation for fifteen years:

Cruikshank badge for six months.....	3,467
One-year medal.....	2,123
The bar for two years.....	2,123
Victoria medal.....	880
Beatty star for three years.....	471
Cricket bar for four years.....	471
Water star for five years.....	471
The shield for six years.....	398
Harlock cross for seven years.....	291
Arseye star for eight years.....	291
The medal for nine years.....	291
Robert's medal for ten years.....	291
Medal for twelve years.....	291
The badge for fifteen years.....	291
The Bascroft cross for twenty years.....	5

Comparing these figures with those of the preceding year it is found that there is an advance of 471 in the total number of medals issued of Cruikshank badge, given after six months' membership, which is the hardest to win. If a man has kept the pledge for six months it is easy for him to keep it a year or five years. In addition to the medals above mentioned special decorations are conferred upon 418 members of the association who kept their pledge inviolate under very trying circumstances during the war in South Africa.

Experience of the Members.

In discussing the influence of the association, Mr. Bateson told me that an average of 33 per cent of the members dropped out after less than three months' membership. He said that they were usually able to secure pledges from a majority of the recruits and men in new regiments coming out from England, but nearly one-third fell within the first three months. He said he was able to resist the temptation and the terrible climatic influence to which foreign soldiers from the temperate zones are subjected in India, and that he had been one of the members drop out between the first three months and the end of the year, leaving about 38 per cent who stick to the principles. And as a rule, if a man can resist temptation for a year in India he has sufficient strength to permanently abstain. Mr. Bateson said that the members considered it is not to any man's discredit that he should join the association for one, three or nine months and then give it up. The pledge of the association is so worded that this can be done without penalty. If the man thus described has made no real resolve to abstain from liquor the matter has been treated lightly, the leaders of the association let him alone and allow him to go his own way, but if he had a real resolve, he is really in earnest and has shown good intentions, and he yielded reluctantly to temptation, they endeavor to induce him to renew the pledge repeatedly, and to assist him in keeping it. He says that some of the best men in the association fell again and again, but were finally able to cultivate moral courage sufficient to resist temptation. One man in particular violated his pledge more than twenty times, but each time he renewed it with a determination of keeping it. Fortunately some of his comrades who were familiar with his character stood by him, assisted him in his struggle to shake off the habit, and ultimately had the gratification of serving with a thoroughly reformed man.

The Expense and Revenues.

The Royal Army Temperance Association is not self-supporting, except in the large barracks, where there are 500 or more men to contribute. At the temperance bar, tea, coffee, mineral waters and other soft drinks and light refreshments are sold at an advance of 15 per cent above cost, which barely covers the expense of handling and

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The growing popularity of the Welsbach Portable Lamps has urged us to special effort this Christmas. Handsome lamps and shades are now on display at our sales rooms, and a cordial invitation is extended you to inspect the many beautiful lighting effects at our store.

The visit will be educational—and interesting!

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439 Seventh Street N.W.

POLICE COURT TRIALS.

Suggestions for Improvement Made by Mr. Wm. F. Downey.

Mr. William F. Downey, chairman of the special works committee of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, has submitted to the Commissioners a number of suggestions for proposed improvements in the Police Court trials, the vesting of the pardoning power, and provision made for caring for vagrants. In the course of his communication, the present methods are criticized quite severely. Mr. Downey recently was mentioned by President Roosevelt as a type of what the true American citizen should be.

Mr. Downey regrets that in the present Police Court methods in the District there is what he terms, "one law for the rich and another for the poor." He says he considers it inadvisable and an injustice, when two men are tried for a similar offense, to allow one to escape punishment because he has the money with which to pay his fine, and to make the other, if he is a poor man, lacking the means to pay his fine, take the alternative, which may be a long term in prison, and whose family are so made to suffer by being deprived of their only means of support.

Along this line Mr. Downey says that he approves of the appointment of magistrates to preside at the trial of prisoners for trivial offenses, at the various police stations, and of jury trials for those who have committed grave offenses. He says that in the case of sending a poor man to prison for a trivial offense he believes the ends of justice would be better met by imposing a sentence of about two days, and not by sending him to prison, the workhouse for several months, where he will probably be thrown in contact with vicious criminals, which would crush his self-respect and demoralize his better nature.

Mr. Downey is in favor of vesting the pardoning power in the District Commissioners, as the legal guardians of District citizens. He also comments upon the custom of arresting vagrants and beggars, and of sending them to prison or the workhouse, and states that proper provision is not made to care for those who are so unfortunate as to be out of funds or work.

Commissioner Macfarland, in commenting on Mr. Downey's letter, says the matter of reform of the present system of Police Court trials does not rest with the board of District Commissioners, but that he is heartily in favor of the vesting of the power to pardon in the District Commissioners, and that they have already made a recommendation to Congress to that effect.

Mr. Downey is evidently unaware, says Commissioner Macfarland, of the purpose of work done by the municipal lodging house, which is located on 12th street, opposite the post office, and of which Mr. A. H. Tyson is the superintendent. At this place, he says, any one who is without work or money and is not a professional tramp will be given lodging and food for three days, or until work can be procured, in which he is assisted by the officials, but in return such person will be required to saw or chop a reasonable amount of wood. This latter provision is made, the Commissioner states, to keep from pauperizing the applicants.

ACCORDING TO LAW.

Commitment of Mrs. Columbus to Hospital for Insane Discussed.

A letter of complaint was received by the District Commissioners yesterday following the lunacy proceedings recently had in the case of Mrs. Martha R. Columbus. She was examined at the request of the members of the executive board of the Hamline Church, it is said, and the doctors pronounced her insane. The proceedings were had by authority of the act of Congress of this year, and Mrs. Columbus was sent to the hospital, where she remained eight days. The proceedings were dropped last Friday and her son, Archibald C. Columbus, who lives at 1025 6th street northeast, took charge of her.

Sanitary Officer Frank was called upon to answer a letter of complaint written by counsel for Mr. Columbus. His report, sent to the Commissioners late yesterday afternoon, states that everything that was done in the case was in accordance with law. He says the doctors alleged that Mrs. Columbus is not able to care for herself and that her son was permitted to take charge of her with the distinct understanding that he would care for her.

Anacostia and Vicinity.

A Young People's Union was organized recently at the Macedonia Baptist Church, on Sheridan avenue, this place. The meeting at which organization was effected was presided over by Mr. James T. Howard. Officers were elected as follows: Mr. J. O. Gray, president; Mrs. L. Lewis, vice president; Mrs. H. Watson, secretary; Mr. A. Watson, treasurer; Miss E. Green, librarian; Mr. J. T. Howard, chaplain. Arrangements were made to hold sessions each Sunday afternoon from 5:30 until 7:30 o'clock.

The extensive improvements that have been in progress in St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Chapel, on Nichols avenue, amounting to a remodeling of the edifice, are nearly completed, and it is expected that the building will shortly be reconsecrated by the congregation. Rev. Dr. William V. Tunnell of Howard University is the rector in charge.

Messrs. Andrew J. Beyer of Bellevue, this place, and Mr. James Beall of Anacostia last evening reached home after a two weeks' shooting trip in the vicinity of Centerville, St. Mary's county, Md. Mr. Beyer bagged a very large number of birds, while Mr. Beall had equally good luck with the rabbits. Mr. Beyer had eighty-four birds shipped home.

Night Desk Sergeant Frank Virmstein of the local precinct, who has been absent with leave, has returned to duty, permitting acting night desk sergeant, Officer G. A. Schrader, to return to his post back at Good Hope.

As a result of a wound inflicted two months ago L. H. Fulcher is dead at a hospital in Richmond, Va., and his slayer, E. C. Burnett, has been rearrested and placed on bond.

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Vegetable Soup.
MATERIALS:—Three onions, three carrots, two turnips, head celery, parsley, salt, pepper, three tablespoonfuls butter, two tablespoonfuls flour.

Lea & Perrins' Sauce
THE ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE
Seasoning:—As indicative of the dishes which follow, a soup should be perfect in consistence and seasoning. The anxious cook need not fear criticism if to the soup in the tureen she adds two tablespoonfuls of Lea & Perrins' Sauce.
JOHN DUNCAN'S SONS, Agents, NEW YORK.

Curiosity From Oyster Bed.
Mr. W. E. Ashton, agent of the wharf at Colonial Beach, has a curiosity in the shape of an ordinary china dinner plate which was taken from a Chincagon bay oyster bed by a dredge a few days ago, and to which several oysters are attached. Two of the oysters, large-sized ones, are growing in the center of the plate, while around the edges and on the back are numerous smaller oysters in a healthy condition. The plate is to be sent to this city and will be placed on exhibition.

In the Lighthouse Service.
The United States lighthouse engineers' steamer Jessamine is on a cruise among the lighthouses on Chesapeake bay and its tributaries, making repairs that are necessary to put them in good condition to withstand the storms of the winter. The Jessamine has recently come from the shipyard, where she was given a thorough overhauling, in which she is assisted by a general overhauling preparatory to relieving No. 71 on the Diamond Shoal station, about January 1.